6/20/69

Mr. Allen Barnard
Executive Editor
Bantam Books, Inc.
271 Madison Ave.,
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Allan,

You may have forgotten your kindnesses to me but I have not. I recall your desire to publish my first book, your attempt to interest your British subsidiary in it, your effort last year with Howard Cady (who remembered my work but not me from our OSS days).

I intend this letter as a return kindness.

You may recall that C. Eric Lincoln introduced my COUP D'ETAT to you through Jean Highland and it was decided against, naturally, right before you brought out the Blair book. Mine was done a year ago. I am now adding new material to it.

In checking my files of clippings on Ray's arrest in England, one story in particular seemed very familiar. But I hadn't read it since last July 5, when it appeared in The Washington Post. Then it hit me. I turned to Blair's chapter on the arrest.

Often word for word. The substitutions are few and transparent. Where there have been slight changes in expression, the ideas follow in the same sequence, say the same thing.

In reading your book I had the impression that Blair was rehashing. I have not checked it for this. I feel, I hope without warrant, that what I report of pages 202 and 204 is not limited to them.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with quoting the papers, with attribution. But that is not the same as representing an original investigation with all those painful 18,000 miles, etc.

At least you know before Karl E. Meyer (for one?) or the Post.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg